

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 AID-05 OMB-01 /065 W

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O R 190950Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8952

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: ANTI-SLANDER BILL

REF: SEOUL 1809

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION HAVE CLASHED IN ASSEMBLY OVER INTRODUCTION OF ANTI-SLANDER BILL (REFTEL). NDP IS BLOCKING COMMITTEE AND PLENARY SESSIONS IN ATTEMPT PREVENT PASSAGE OF AMENDMENT TO CRIMINAL CODE WHICH WOULD MAKE IT A CRIME TO "SLANDER" THE STATE WHILE ABROAD OR IN ROK THROUGH "UTILIZATION" OF FOREIGNERS. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVERNMENT PARTIES ATTEMPTED EVENING MARCH 18 TO PASS BILL OUT OF LEGISLATION-JUDICIARY COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, NDP OCCUPIED COMMITTEE CHAMBERS FOR THREE HOURS, DISRUPTED PROCEEDINGS AND FORCED ADJOURNMENT OF COMMITTEE.

2. MORNING MARCH 19 GOVT AND OPPOSITION HELD SEPARATE PARTY CAUCESES. GOVT REITERATED PLANS TO PASS AMENDMENT DURING MARCH 20 PLENARY SESSION WHILE NDP PLEDGED TO BLOCK PASSAGE BOTH IN COMMITTEE AND ON FLOOR.

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3. FOLLOWING CAUCUSES NDP ASSEMBLYMEN PHYSICALLY PREVENTED SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON FROM REACHING ROSTRUM TO OPEN PLENARY SESSION. AFTERNOON MARCH 19 NDP AGAIN PREVENTED SPEAKER FRO REACHING ROSTRUM; AS OF LATE AFTERNOON GOVT AND OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMEN REMAINED ON ASSEMBLY FLOOR.

4. MEDIA REPORTS THAT NDP REJECTED SPEAKER'S PROPOSAL TO VOTE ON OTHER BILLS, INCLUDING NPT, PRIOR TO MARCH 20 CONSIDERATION OF SLANDER BILL. NDP REPORTEDLY FEARED SPEAKER WOULD FORCE THROUGH BILL IF GIVEN OPPORTUNITY. TONGA ILBO EDITORIAL HAS ATTACKED PROPOSED AMENDMENT AND CALLED FOR RETRACTION OF BILL. OTHER PAPERS HAVE SO FAR TAKEN MORE CAUTIOUS LINE BY CALLING FOR CLOSE EXAMINATION OF DANGEROUS ELEMENTS IN BILL.

5. SEPTTEL REPORTS EMBASSY CONVERSATIONS ON BILL WITH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION ASSEMBLYMEN.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LAW, DEFAMATION, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CRIMINAL LAW, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, INFORMATION CONTROL  
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**Draft Date:** 19 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: ANTI-SLANDER BILL  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, KS  
**To:** STATE  
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